ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A packet transmission method wherein, when the sum of the bands of a plurality of flows including packets having the same priority exceeds the guaranteed band shared by these flows, a packet belongs to a flow having an earlier transmission start time is given a higher priority than a packet belongs to a flow having a later transmission start time on the in order of arrival basis based on the transmission start time. A classifier controls the token thresholds and a priority control mechanism controls the discard thresholds based on each flow to use for deciding the conditions.